National Telecom Policy, 2005

2534. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is preparing a 'National Telecom Policy, 2005';

(b) if so, salient features thereof; and

(c) by when this 'National Telecom Policy' is likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposed policy is intended to be a comprehensive policy encompassing various aspects of the Telecom sector *inter-alia*, Access, Spectrum Allocation, Technology, Telecom Equipment Manufacturing, R&D, Deregulation/Further Simplication, Value Added Service and Quality of Service etc. Comments have been invited from various major stakeholder for preparation of Draft Policy.

(e) The National Telecom Policy is likely to be announced before the end of this year.

Provision of mobile service in rural areas

†2535. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that mobile service is yet not available in rural areas and small towns;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take any step for providing mobile service in rural areas;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.